



ESAFF ANNUAL REPORT 2024

The Voice of Smallholder Farmers in the AU CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 – 2035

Farmers Speak for Themselves

The CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 Goals

The six CAADP goals serve as the pillars of this ambitious agenda, providing clear benchmarks for policy reform, strategic investment and inclusive development across the continent.

Below are the six CAADP Kampala Commitments 2026 - 2035



Intensifying Sustainable Food Production, AgroIndustrialization, and Trade

To increasing agrifood output by 45% to meet growing Africa food requirements and global trade opportunities.

Reducing post-harvest loss by **50%**.

Tripling intra-African trade in agrifood products and inputs by 2035 in line with the AfCFTA.

Raising the share of locally processed food to 35% of agrifood GDP by 2035

2

Boosting Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agri-Food Systems Transformation

To mobilize a total of \$100 billion in public and private sector investment in African agrifood systems.

At least 10% of annual public expenditure is allocated to agrifood systems

At least 15% of agrifood GDP is reinvested annually into the sector.

3

Ensuring Food and Nutrition Security

To reduce stunting by 25%

To reduce wasting by 25%

To reduce overweight by 25%

To reduce ensuring that 60% of the population can afford a healthy diet.



Advancing Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods

Reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by 50%

Reducing the yield gap between men and women farmers by 50% Empowering at least 30% of women, 30% youth and 30% vulnerable groups in agrifood value chains by 2035



Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems

Ensuring that Africa's agrifood systems are resilient to climate, socio-economic, and environmental shocks

To have at least 30% of agricultural land under sustainable management and 40% of households protected from shocks by 2035



Strengthening Agri-Food Systems Governance

African Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) integrate the Kampala CAADP Declaration into their national and regional agrifood systems investment plans by 2028 African countries adopt best practices in governance of agrifood systems based on CAADP principles. African countries incorporate the CAADP Biennial Review process into their national agriculture joint sectoral review platforms

List of Abbreviations

ADF Agriculture Development Fund

AAZ ActionAid Zimbabwe

AFSA The Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa
AfCFTA African Continental Free Trade Area
AFSH Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health

ASARECA Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa

ATNR Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources

AUC African Union Commission

BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

BRR Biennial Review Report

CAADP Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme

CCARDESA Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa

COP Conference of Parties
CSO Civil Society Organisation
EAC East African Community

EALA East African Legislative Assembly

ESAFF Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum

EXCO Executive Committee

FANR Food Agriculture and Natural Resources

FAO Food Agriculture Organosation FMSS Farmer Managed Seed Systems

GIZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

ICBT Informal Cross Border Trade
M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

NAIP National Agriculture Investment Program

NCP National Contact Point

NDCs Nationally Determined Contributions

NSA Non-State Actors

PCFS People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty

PETS Public Expenditure Tracking
PSA Public Social Accountability

RAIP Regional Agriculture Investment Program

RDF Regional Development Fund RECs Regional Economic Community

SADC Southern Africa Development Community

SADC PF Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum SAFCNGO Southern African Council of Non-Governmental Organisations

SNC SADC National Committee
SNRL SADC National Regional Linkages

SSF Small-Scale Farmers

UNDFF United Nations Declaration on Family Farmers
UNEA United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

WRF World Rural Forum

ZIMSOFF Zimbabwe Smallholder Organic Farmers Forum

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66 Message from Chairperson



Dear Members, Partners and Stakeholders,

It is with immense pride and gratitude that I present to you the Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Annual Report for 2024. This year has been a testament to the resilience, unity and unwavering commitment of smallholder farmers across our region as we continue to champion recognition of smallholder farmers interest in policy processes in Africa.

In the year 2024, ESAFF made significant strides in amplifying the voices of smallholder farmers in policy processes particularly in the making of the new 10 years CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 which will replace the CAADP Malabo Declaration 2014 - 2025.

Smallholder farmers through ESAFF in collaboration with other partners like AFSA, CAADP Non-State Actors Group (CNG), Pan African Farmers Organisation (PAFO), ActionAid through the PSA Alliance, artists and media made meaningful engagement that saw farmers aspirations reflected in the final CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 — 2035. The Declaration puts smallholder farmers who are the majority at the centre and also rural transformation (infrastructure, good social services and Decentralised governance) as key on building on Building Resilient and Sustainable Agrifood Systems in Africa. It also recognises the need to continue with quality public investment into the sector, recognition of African food culture and cuisine, indigenous seeds and farmer managed seed system

The process towards making the CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035 was very participatory compared to the previous processes, however, despite the call by farmer organisations, civil society and some African governments, the Declaration fell short to recognise African food sovereignty and agroecology

The year 2024 also saw ESAFF, GIZ Botswana and PSA Alliance spearheaded the establishment of national Public Resource Management Platforms in Zimbabwe and Zambia and also conducting critical analysis and recommendations and regional dialogues on the ended SADC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan (RAIP) 2017 – 2022 and the new SADC Regional Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (RASIPs).

As we reflect the year 2024, we would like to thank ESAFF members in 17 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa and their governments, the African Union Commission (AUC - ARBE), the Coordinator of the Post Malabo processes Dr. Hamady Diop, the Directorates of Agriculture in SADC and EAC, Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CAARDESA) as well as the regional and national Parliaments. We also thank the World Rural Forum (WRF), the Foundation for Farmers Organisations and Restorative Action (FFORA) and Coopération Internationale Pour le Développement et la Solidarité (CIDSE)

We highly appreciate the continued support from our development partner Brot fur die Welt (BfdW) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In solidarity

Hakim Baliraine ESAFF Chairperson December 2024



Executive Summary

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers' Forum (ESAFF) Annual Report for 2024 highlights a year of impactful advocacy, capacity building and strategic engagement aimed at empowering smallholder farmers and advancing ecological agriculture across Eastern and Southern Africa. Guided by our vision of a strong, united forum of empowered farmers influencing policy for a poverty-free region, ESAFF achieved significant milestones across four Key Result Areas: public policy influence, wealth creation through ecological agriculture, climate adaptation and inclusion and organizational development.

Key Result Area 1: Influencing African Agriculture Public Policies and Agriculture Budget Allocation

ESAFF made significant strides in bringing in issues of smallholder farmers at continental and regional agricultural policies. ESAFF advocated for smallholder priorities to be incoporated in the Post Malabo CAADP Agenda (CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 – 2035).

"Of the presented 20 issues, 18 were reflected in the final documents".

ESAFF also launched an advocacy <u>campaign song</u> that reached over 12,067 viewers, amplifying smallholder voices and driving policy discussions on agroecology and food sovereignty. ESAFF assessed the SADC RAIP 2017-2022 advocating for the stronger alignment with national policies, also analyzed the 4th CAADP Biennial Review Report (2023) and producing policy briefs for the EAC and SADC.

Key Result Area 2: Wealth Creation through Ecological Agriculture, joint marketing, farmer managed seed systems, land security and Trade

ESAFF championed the inclusion of farmer-managed seed systems (FMSS) and food sovereignty and agroecology in the CAADP Kampala Declaration 2035

ESAFF engagement with parliamentary (EALA and SADC PF) increased understanding of law makers on the interest of smallholder farmers regarding sustainable agriculture, seed, land and trade. The launch of the SADC Parliamentary Alliance on Agri-food Systems demonstrate strengthened regional coordination for food security and trade.

Key Result Area 3: Climate Adaptation, Gender Equality, and Youth Involvement

ESAFF advocated for climate-resilient food systems at COP29 in Baku, AzerbaiJanuary and later organized a Farmers Webinar for reflection and advocacy planning including taking part in the National Determined Contribution (NDC) at national level. The Thousands Youth Agroecology Summit organized by AFSA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia empowered young farmers to lead climate adaptation efforts while ESAFF pushed for agroecology recognition and campaign.

Key Result Area 4: Organizational Development

The year 2024 was very successful on coalition building through working with different organizations on policy advocacy at continental, regional and national level.

Towards making the new CAADP Kampala Declaration, ESAFF worked with AFSA, CNG, PAFO as well as SAfCNGO, EACSOF and the PSA Alliance to bring forward issues that are affecting farmers and people in Africa.

ESAFF managed to organize statutory meetings including the Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting and Executive Committee of the Board Meetings and Board Sub-Committee Meetings (Governance, Fundraising and Finance). ESAFF also organized the strategic senior staff meeting. ESAFF developed advocacy toolkit and training manual booklet and the animated training videos for farmer leaders in eastern and southern Africa. ESAFF was also accredited to UNEP which expanded her global environmental advocacy reach.

ESAFF Mission, Vision, Purpose and Theory of Change



Vision Statement

A strong effective forum of empowered Small-Scale Farmers with united voices in the policy processes for ecological agriculture and poverty free Eastern and Southern Africa region.

Mission Statement

Empowering Small-Scale Farmers in Eastern and Southern Africa to influence development policies and promote ecological agriculture through capacity strengthening, research and networking.

The Purpose of ESAFF

The construction theme will focus on building an agroecological centre to support learning for farmers.

ESAFF Core Values



Integrity: To be honest, reliable and upright in our conduct; and to stand for what we believe



Mutual trust: Cultivate confidence, self-reliance among farmers to avoid hurting each other



Equal partnership: Treat every member equally with the same rights irrespective of their country of origin, sex, age or beliefs



Transparency and accountability:
Openness and truthfulness in our
conduct and being answerable to one
another and to others; and



Respect: Holding high opinion of each other and of others, valuing each other and nurturing the esteem of fellow farmers as well as keeping our promises

Theory of Change

Small-Scale Farmers are a driving force for social change and poverty reduction in eastern and southern Africa (ESA) region through participation in democratic processes at community and local government level, national and regional level as well as at continental and global level



PART ONE: NARRATIVE REPORT 2024

Key Result Area 1: Influencing Public Policy and budget influencing for the realisation of the Malabo Declaration through PETS and PSAM at all levels

(I) AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF FARMERS ON CAADP POST MALABO AGENDA

In 2024, ESAFF played a crucial role in shaping the post-Malabo CAADP agenda through strategic participation in consultative sessions, awareness campaigns and policy dialogues. ESAFF championed smallholder farmers voices in key discussions to ensure the key priorities were reflected in the next CAADP framework. ESAFF also launched an advocacy campaign song which reached over 59,710 views and a documentary that reached over 12,067 viewers, amplifying smallholder voices and driving policy discussions on agroecology and food sovereignty. ESAFF also produced a popular version for smallholder farmers which briefs in the CAADP Kampala Declaration 2035, Strategy and Action Plan.

Campaign Song: CAADP - Africa Roaring for Agriculture

18/20

issues were reflected in the final documents of the CAADP Kampala Strategy and Action Plan 2035

Agroecology and Food Sovereignty were not reflected





The following are the proposals from ESAFF that were incorporated in the final document;



Rural Transformation as a Center of Agri-Food Systems

Proposal for Quality Rural Financing (Infrastructure, Extension Services, etc.)



Financing for Rural Transformation as Agri-Food System Centers



Recognition of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems



Decentralization of CAADP for Social Accountability



Support for Cooperatives and Crop Growers' Associations



Awareness of Food Safety and SPS (Smallholder Farmers, Traders)



Investment in Digitalization of Agriculture for Smallholder Farmers



Information Technology for Marketing



Investment in Extension Services



Informal Cross-Border Traders



Implementation of Comprehensive Insurance Schemes



Timely and Easy Access to Early
Warning Systems



Access to Resources for Women and
Youth



Participation in Policy Implementation and Monitoring



Functional Joint Agricultural Sector Reviews
Domestication of Kampala Declaration
Ratification of the Kampala Declaration

These key engagements and advocacy initiatives on CAADP Post Malabo Agenda include;



May 2024, ESAFF joined AFSA in the African Non-State Actors Meeting on Shaping the Post-Malabo Agenda in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, alongside the Consortium for Climate Change Ethiopia (CCCE) for a dialogue on CAADP post Malabo agenda. ESAFF presented key smallholder farmer priorities for the upcoming Kampala Declaration, including rural development as hubs for production, processing, value addition and marketing.



In 20th May 2024, ESAFF took part in the EAC/IGAD RECs led consultations on CAADP's Post-Malabo Agenda, in Nairobi, Kenya, ESAFF emphasized key issues such as food sovereignty and agroecology, rural development, strengthening cooperatives, digitalization of agriculture and farmer-managed seed systems.



In 02nd June 2024, ESAFF took part in the SADC RECs led consultations on CAADP's Post-Malabo Agenda, in Lusaka, Zambia. ESAFF emphasized key issues such as rural infrastructure development, Decentralization of the CAADP to rural setup, indigenous crops and animals and public financing for agriculture, food sovereignty and agroecology among others.



In end of May 2024, ESAFF convened a virtual meeting with over 40 smallholder farmer leaders from Eastern and Southern Africa to develop a memorandum which was submitted to the African Union Commission.

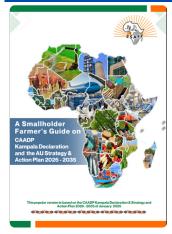
The memorandum called for increased investment in rural transformation, food sovereignty and agroecology while advocating for the ratification of the Kampala Declaration at national and regional levels.



In October 2024, the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) convened in Addis Ababa to discuss the CAADP 2026–2035 Strategy, Action Plan and the Kampala Declaration. Ahead of the meeting, ESAFF mobilized farmer leaders across 10 countries in eastern and southern Africa in which farmer leaders engaged their respective Ministries of Agriculture for inclusion of agroecology and food sovereignty in the next CAADP framework (2026–2035). The STC agreed to further discuss agroecology in the next STC in October 2025.



The SADC Non State Actors Group (CNG) members and other Non State Actors at the CAADP Post Malabo meeting in June 2024 in Lusaka, Zambia



ESAFF produced a popular version of the new CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026–2035 (left) to enhance awareness and understanding of the new CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026 – 2035 among Smallholder Farmers.



(ii) ENGAGING AGRICULTURE POLICIES AT REGIONAL LEVEL (SADC & EAC)

• Influencing SADC Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP) 2017-2022

During the reporting period, ESAFF, GIZ in Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) project commissioned consultants from the Ministries of Agriculture in Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi to assess the implementation of the SADC RAIP 2017–2022. The analysis examined national-level achievements, revealing varying degrees of alignment. Malawi demonstrated direct alignment with the SADC RAIP, while Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe showed low levels of integration through their respective National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs). Key recommendations for future effective implementation is to ensure that SADC provides implementation guidelines to member states and ensure increased awareness of the SADC monitoring and evaluation system and funding to implement regional agriculture investment plan at regional and member states level. Following the study, validation meetings were held in Tanzania (November 2024) and Malawi (December 2024), participants provided inputs for the upcoming RASIPs.







Members of the Tanzania SADC NSA Platform during the validation meeting of the shadow monitoring report on SADC RAIP 2012017 - 2022 implementation

Further recommendations were provided, including

- SADC Member States to harmonize their National Investment Plans with RAIP through clear domestication guidelines,
- Enhanced stakeholder engagement involving NSAs,
- Strengthened resource mobilization through the operationalization of the SADC Regional Development Fund (RDF) and the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF).
- Importance of prioritizing agroecological and climate-resilient approaches, particularly for smallholder farmers and
- Integrating rural development into agricultural budgets and strengthening monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.
- Institutional strengthening through the establishment of the SNC in Tanzania, South Africa, Comoros and Zimbabwe to improve coordination.
- Aligning National Agri-food System Investment Plans (NASIPs) timelines with Regional Agri-food System Investment Plans (RASIPs) for better monitoring.



Members from the Non State Actors in Malawi during the validation meeting of the shadow monitoring report on SADC RAIP 2012017 - 2022 implementation

Influencing the new SADC Regional Agriculture Advisory and Extension Services Strategy.

In 2024, ESAFF analyzed Agriculture Advisory and Extension Strategies (AAES) across SADC Member States, producing a policy brief to inform the SADC Secretariat's development of a Regional Extension Strategy. The brief identified key insights, lessons, and a proposed framework, noting that Malawi, South Africa, Lesotho, eSwatini, Zambia, Mozambique, and Botswana have standalone AAES policies. It emphasized the pluralistic nature of extension services and the need for systematic evaluation. Recommendations included aligning the regional strategy with national policies, standardizing services, integrating ICT innovations, creating a regional forum, promoting local technologies, incorporating FAO agroecology principles, and ensuring multilingual outreach. Implementing this strategy will boost smallholder farmers' access to vital resources, enhancing food security, productivity, and rural development.



SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) deliberate on SADC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan.

In 2024, ESAFF, alongside the PSA Alliance and stakeholders, participated in the 55th Plenary of the SADC PF Standing Committee on Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resources in South Africa. ESAFF emphasized the need to invest in agroecology to address climate-induced disasters and provided key recommendations for the upcoming RAIP 2025-2030.



Key proposals included involving smallholder farmers in RAIP development, prioritizing funding through the Agriculture Development Fund (ADF), and aligning RAIP with the next CAADP framework, particularly the Kampala Declaration 2026-2035. The session underscored the urgency of operationalizing the ADF and strengthening RAIP reporting through biennial reviews at regional and national levels.

Launch of the SADC Parliamentary Alliance on Agri-food Systems, Food Security, and Nutrition

In December 2024, ESAFF through the PSA Alliance worked with the SADC Parliamentary Forum and FAO to launch the SADC PF Alliance on Agri-food Systems, Food Security, and Nutrition. The launch brought together key stakeholders to highlight its objectives, structure, and operational principles. The Alliance was established as a platform for enhancing regional collaboration and advocacy, aimed at transforming agri-food systems, improving food security, and advancing nutrition in Southern Africa. During the event, the Alliance's mission and vision were outlined, emphasizing the crucial role of parliamentarians in driving these objectives forward. ESAFF farmer leaders delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the importance of engaging lawmakers in shaping agricultural policies and the positive impact of parliamentary support in various areas, such as the success of irrigation schemes in Malawi and the promotion of agroecological practices in Zambia.



ESAFF further addressed key regional challenges, including climate change, monoculture farming, post-harvest losses and the ongoing hunger crisis in Southern Africa, which disproportionately affects children. To overcome these challenges, ESAFF called for increased agricultural financing, stronger support for women and youth, the promotion of agroecology, better market access and the integration of digital innovations to benefit smallholder farmers.

ESAFF concluded by urging the Alliance to prioritize collaborative efforts towards achieving the CAADP Kampala Six Commitments, aimed at ensuring food and nutrition security and building resilient agri-food systems. The call to action emphasized the need for all stakeholders to work together to create a hunger-free and prosperous Southern Africa, where smallholder farmers can thrive



• EALA ATNR Consultative Meeting on GMO Policies in Tanzania and EAC Partner States

In February 2024, ESAFF participated in a consultative meeting organized by EALA's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, and Natural Resources (ATNR) in Dodoma, Tanzania. The discussions explored GMO policies across the region revealing potential threats to seed sovereignty and biodiversity. ESAFF emphasized the need for public awareness and called for policies that protect smallholder farmers' rights promote biodiversity and sustain local food systems.

Participants reviewed the legal and policy framework on GMOs in Tanzania and the EAC, identifying gaps and risks to food sovereignty, smallholder farmers and biodiversity. ESAFF and stakeholders stressed the need for public awareness on GMO risks and urged collaboration with policymakers to protect farmers' rights, biodiversity, and food sovereignty.

ENHANCING PUBLIC SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR

Institutionalizing Public Resource Management (PRM) Platform in Monze District, Zambia



In April 2024, ESAFF Zambia with the support from the PSA Alliance convened a multi-stakeholder district PRM platform in Monze district, bringing together government institutions (including local government), smallholder farmer groups, extension officers, health officials, SAMCOM members, councillors and the media. The platform established an inclusive structure at the district level to oversee the institutionalization of PRM processes while ensuring strong linkages with the National PRM Platform.

During the discussions, participants agreed that expanding SAMCOM and establishing the PRM platform in Monze would enhance information sharing and collaboration on PRM-related processes. It would also support the identification and prioritization of citizens' rights to improve service delivery in the agriculture and health sectors. The meeting underscored the importance of a non-partisan approach in institutionalizing PRM processes across all levels within the district.

To facilitate implementation, a 13-member Platform Committee was elected, comprising representatives from key institutions; The Ministry of Agriculture was designated as the lead, ESAFF Zambia SAMCOM as the Secretary and Byta FM (media) as the Publicity Secretary. The committee will serve a one-year term, guiding the platform's efforts to strengthen participatory governance and accountability

Formation of Public Resource Management (PRM) platform in Zimbabwe

In October 2024, ESAFF facilitated the establishment of the Zimbabwe SADC NSA Platform on Regional Integration, enhancing structured engagement between government and non-state actors. This platform strengthened collaboration with policy makers, parliamentarians to prioritize agricultural issues within SADC frameworks and champion the formation of Zimbabwe's SADC National Committee. The platform will serve as a critical link between NSAs and policymakers, ensuring that civil society, farmers' organizations and other stakeholders actively contribute to Zimbabwe's regional integration processes within the SADC region. Through this initiative, ESAFF and its partners have strengthened collaboration with parliamentarians, particularly in advancing agricultural sector priorities within SADC frameworks.





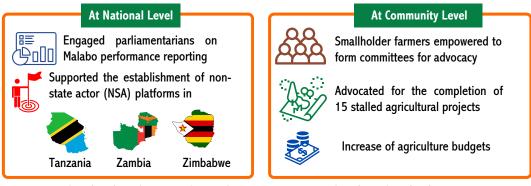




Reviewing 9 years of Promoting Social Accountability in Agriculture Sector in SADC

As Public Social Accountability Alliance was winding in Declaration 2024 after 9 years of success engaging stakeholders in SADC and member states, ESAFF produced a documentary showcasing the impact of the PSA Alliance's work in promoting social accountability in the agriculture sector across Southern Africa. The documentary highlights key achievements, including engagements with SADC on agricultural financing, farmer inclusion in decision-making and agroecology. It also covers the PSA Alliance's role in influencing the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) to pass resolutions on Malabo implementation and agroecology, as well as efforts to elevate agriculture within the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) to Pillar 1, Goal 2 and championing its transformation to a fully legislative body.

At national level, the project engaged parliamentarians on Malabo performance reporting and supported the establishment of non-state actor (NSA) platforms in Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



• Enhancing SADC National Regional Linkages: Peer Learning & Review Conference

In March 2024, ESAFF participated in the Peer Learning & Review Conference for national SADC coordination structures in Gaborone, Botswana, alongside GIZ and other partners. The event brought together over 50 representatives from National Contact Points (NCPs) across SADC countries, SAfCNGO, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), civil society organizations and the media. Discussions focused on reviewing outcomes from the Regional Learning and Exchange Symposium in Lesotho and advancing the establishment of a Peer Learning and Review Mechanism (PLRM) within the SADC Regional Integration framework.

ESAFF, in collaboration with Tanzania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives, provided a comprehensive update on engagements with NCPs and the Tanzania SADC NSA Platform, leading to the development of a joint action plan. A key outcome was the identification of pilot countries particularly Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to implement and monitor the PLRM.

The PLRM aims to strengthen regional integration through information sharing, capacity building, best practice exchange and improved collaboration among SADC Member States.



 ESAFF Advocates for SADC National Committees and Agricultural Development Fund in Parliamentary Engagement



On February 2024, ESAFF, in collaboration with MVIWATA, engaged in parliamentary sessions during the reading of the Committee Report on Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Security. ESAFF reminded the Parliamentary Committee and its Clerk of the importance of implementing key recommendations, including the establishment of SADC National Committees (SNCs) in Tanzania, as stipulated in Article 16A of the 1992 SADC Agreement, to enhance regional integration and governance. Additionally, ESAFF emphasized the need to operationalize the SADC Agricultural Development Fund (ADF - 2016) under the SADC Regional Development Fund to accelerate the implementation of SADC's strategic programs (RISDP 2020-2030) across key sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, industry, and peace and security. Through this engagement, ESAFF reinforced the voices of smallholder farmers, advocating for stronger regional coordination, increased investment in agriculture, and inclusive Decision-making within SADC frameworks.

ESAFF Joins Global Movement on Food Sovereignty

In June 2024, following increasing control of food system in the world by handful multinational cooperation, civil society under the auspicious of the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) based in the Philippines, organised a Training of Trainers workshop on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) in Kampala, Uganda. The training brought together over 15 participants to discuss and strengthen global movements advocating for People's Food Sovereignty by equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to promote sustainable agricultural practices. The workshop focused on empowering agriculture practitioners to advocate for local control over food systems, enhancing community resilience, preserving biodiversity, improving food security and resisting the intrusion of industrial agriculture.

Key Result Area 2: Wealth creation through ecological agriculture, joint marketing, farmer managed seed system, land security and trade

(i) ADVOCACY ON SEED, SOIL AND TRADE

ESAFF made progress in promoting sustainable agriculture enhancing regional policies and advocating for farmer managed seed systems (FMSS) across Eastern and Southern Africa. Through strategic engagements with policymakers, parliamentarians and regional bodies, ESAFF amplified smallholder farmers' voices and secured important policy wins for agroecology and food sovereignty.

• ESAFF's Contribution to the Third AFSA Pan-African Conference on Seed Governance: Advancing Seed Sovereignty in Africa

ESAFF participated in the Third Pan-African Conference on Seed Governance in Niger organized by AFSA. ESAFF advocated for integrating agroecology into seed governance frameworks, protecting farmers' rights to save and exchange seeds and investing in locally adapted seed research and innovation. The conference reinforced ESAFF's leadership in advancing seed sovereignty across the continent.

Through these diverse initiatives, ESAFF advanced wealth creation for smallholder farmers by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, strengthening policy frameworks and securing vital policy wins for FMSS, agroecology and regional trade.



ESAFF's Participation in the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit 2024: Promoting Agroecology and Sustainable Agricultural Practices

In May 2024, ESAFF was represented in the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya. The summit highlighted the critical role of fertilizer and soil health in driving sustainable agricultural productivity in Africa and sought to establish an African Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan, along with the Soils Initiative for Africa. The event brought together African Heads of State, policymakers, private sector, CSOs and researchers to discuss policies and investments aimed at restoring soil health, improving agricultural yields and enhancing the effectiveness of fertilizers for African farmers.

During a side event organized by the Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa (CCARDESA), ESAFF contributed to discussions on sustainable agricultural transformation initiatives across different African sub-regions. ESAFF highlighted the importance of nature-based approaches, such as agroecology in improving soil health and promoting sustainable agriculture.

• ESAFF calls for Smallholder Farmers' Rights and Interests in AfCFTA Negotiations

In May 2024, ESAFF participated in a virtual meeting organized by Kagiso Trust to discuss the perspectives of smallholder farmers on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). During the meeting, ESAFF presented key recommendations aimed at ensuring smallholder farmers' interests are protected under AfCFTA. These included advocating for transparent negotiations involving smallholder farmers, particularly women and informal cross-border traders; opposing the criminalization of Farmer Managed Seed Systems (FMSS) and their exchange and trade; and ensuring protections against the influx of harmful food, farm inputs, and pesticides. ESAFF also called for special considerations for Informal Cross Border Trade (ICBT) in the SADC region, emphasizing the need for SADC to accelerate its industrialization strategy (2015-2063) and the new SADC RASIP 2026-2035, with increased investments in agriculture and rural transformation. Additionally, ESAFF emphasized the importance of embracing food sovereignty within the AfCFTA framework.

Key Result Area 3: Advancing Farmers Agenda in Climate Change Dialogues, Gender Equality and Youth Involvement.

(i) ADVOCACY ON CLIMATE CHANGE, AGROECOLOGY AND YOUTH

 ESAFF, WRF call for implementation of key legislative frameworks to conserve indigenous seeds.

In November — December 2024, At COP29 meeting in Azerbaijan, Baku, ESAFF in collaboration with the World Rural Forum (WRF), played a pivotal role in advocating for climate-resilient food systems, adequate climate financing for smallholder farmers, and the recognition and support of Farmer-Managed Seed Systems (FMSS). ESAFF highlighted the critical importance of these systems in enhancing food security and building resilience in the face of climate change and emphasized the need for comprehensive legal frameworks that protect farmers' rights to save, use and exchange seeds,



urging governments to integrate FMSS into national agricultural policies and extension services, thereby ensuring farmers have the necessary support to effectively manage and share their seeds.





ESAFF Chairperson underscored the growing challenges of hunger, soil degradation, and climate-related shocks in Africa. He stressed the urgent need for mobilizing funding to improve food security and adaptation, while calling for more efficient processes for securing private finance and the implementation of the "polluter pays" principle. In addition to advocating for the protection and recognition of FMSS, Together, ESAFF and WRF worked to influence both regional and national policies, promoting agroecology, empowering smallholder farmers, and ensuring long-term food security across the region.





• Smallholder Farmers to Engage in National Determined Contributions (NDCs) Formulation

In October 2024, ESAFF, in collaboration with Global Strategic Communications Council (GSCC) and ActionAid International, organized a COP29 Farmers Reflection Webinar to reflect on the outcomes of the COP29 meeting and explore their implications for smallholder farmers. The webinar brought together over 40 smallholder farmer leaders, climate experts, development partners, media, and stakeholders working in agriculture and climate to discuss and strategize on the role of farmers in driving climate action. The focus was on bridging the gap between global-level climate policies and the on-the-ground realities faced by farmers. Recognizing that global policies set the framework, the webinar emphasized that their successful implementation depends heavily on local actors, especially smallholder farmers.

The meeting provided a platform for stakeholders, particularly farmers, to unpack the key decision made at COP29, discuss their relevance to national and local contexts and develop actionable strategies to amplify farmer participation in climate policy processes at local, national, regional and global levels.

Several key actions were put in place to advocate for climate resilience and influence future COP meetings which include



Monitoring Climate Finance, Tracking climate funding to ensure it reaches grassroots farmers and supports adaptation projects.



Engaging in NDC formulation to amplify voices through grassroots networks and policy advocacy, ensuring climate policies address farmers needs.



Following up on international carbon market agreements to understand their impact on local farming practices.



Farmers to push for the inclusion of agroecological practices in national agricultural policies and advocate for better access to climate adaptation technologies.

• The thousands Youth Agroecology Summit 2024



In October 2024, ESAFF participated in the Youth Agroecology Summit in Ethiopia, organized by AFSA, which brought together over 1,000 youth across Africa. The summit highlighted agroecology's role in addressing climate change, food insecurity, and rural development. ESAFF emphasized youth advocacy within the CAADP Kampala Declaration (2026–2035) and the need to integrate agroecology into policies. The event also served as a platform for youth to amplify their voices in policy discussions and strengthening local food systems

· ESAFF Members Establish National Farmers Youth Councils

In the efforts to ensure young smallholder farmers to participate in ESAFF activities and leadership, National Farmers Youth Councils have been established at ESAFF member countries. These bodies will spearhead involvement of youth in advocacy activities at national and regional levels. The objective is also to ensure members have proper succession leadership plan in place, these countries are; Botswana, Burundi, DR Congo, eSwatini, Madagascar, Malawi, Uganda, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Key Result Area 4: Organisational Development for ESAFF and Members

(i) COALITION BUILDING AND STATUTORY MEETINGS

The year 2024, ESAFF successfully cemented coalition with likeminded organisations at continental and regional levels. The organisation was able to hold successfully all statutory meeting as required by the constitution including one senior staff strategic meeting. ESAFF also developed advocacy toolkit and training manual and applied for accreditation to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

· Coalition Building for Advocacy

The year 2024 was very successful on coalition building through working with different organizations on policy advocacy at continental, regional and national level. Towards making the new CAADP Kampala Declaration, ESAFF worked with the various organisations.



(ii) STATUTORY MEETINGS

Statutory Meetings

ESAFF managed to organize statutory meetings including the Annual General Meeting, Board of Directors Meeting and Executive Committee of the Board Meetings and Board Sub-Committee Meetings (Governance, Fundraising and Finance).

ESAFF Annual General Meeting 2024

ESAFF Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 28th March 2024 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. It approved the 2024 work plan and budget and endorsed the audit report. Prior to the AGM, members also reflected on the national and regional advocacy activities of the INFLUENCE-4 project.



ESAFF Senior Staff Strategic Meeting



In March 2024, ESAFF organized a Senior Staff meeting in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, bringing together the National Coordinators from ESAFF member countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. The meeting focused on key discussions regarding organisational development, plans for advocacy and lobbying at all levels, the development of training outlines and advocacy tools, joint fundraising strategies and enhancing communication and collaboration among member organizations. The coordinators collectively developed an action plan, identifying key areas for collaboration, joint campaigns, fundraising initiatives and plans for future meetings.

(ii) ESAFF ACCREDITATION TO INTERNATIONAL BODIES

• ESAFF Accredited to UNEP

A major milestone in 2024 was ESAFF's accreditation to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) under the Major Groups and Stakeholders Group. This accreditation grants ESAFF observer status, allowing participation in UNEA meetings, submission of policy contributions and access to key environmental policy discussions. This enhances ESAFF's capacity to advocate for sustainable food systems, agroecology and climate resilience on a global stage, strengthening its influence in international policy processes.



(iii) PUBLICATIONS

Development of Advocacy toolkit for smallholder farmers

ESAFF as part of the PSA Alliance developed a comprehensive Advocacy Toolkit aimed at empowering smallholder farmers, agriculture advocates, community leaders and stakeholders to promote social accountability within the agricultural sector. The toolkit bridges the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that the needs of smallholder farmers are actively addressed for a sustainable agricultural future. It is organized into eight sections, starting with definitions and benefits of social accountability, followed by the five steps of the Public Service Accountability Monitoring (PSAM) process.

The toolkit also introduces practical social accountability tools, highlights key advocacy features and offers a step-by-step guide to developing an advocacy plan. This resource equips stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to effectively engage in advocacy, influence policies, and hold Decision-makers accountable, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and securing the resources needed for smallholder farmers to succeed



Development of Training Manual

In 2024, ESAFF developed a comprehensive training manual for district-level farmer leaders, designed to enhance smallholder farmers capacity to actively influence and participate in agricultural development processes at the grassroots level. Drawing from extensive knowledge and resources on empowering smallholder farmers, the manual reflects the principles of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) and the long-term objectives of the Kampala Declaration 2026-2035, Sustainable development goals (SGDs), African Agenda 2063 goals as well the national frameworks that contribute to agriculture development and improved welfare for farmers. It equips farmers with the skills and knowledge to advocate for transparency and accountability in agricultural strategies and programs. This training empowers farmers to engage effectively at grassroots, national, and regional levels, such as within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC).



The training manual will enable farmer leaders to advocate for policies and budgets that reflect their needs, ensuring more effective resource allocation and sustainable agricultural development that improves livelihoods. ESAFF also developed an animated version of the training manual to make the content more accessible and engaging for farmer leaders. The animation simplifies complex concepts and offers an interactive learning experience, helping farmer leaders better understand key principles, tools, and strategies for effective advocacy in

the agricultural sector. This dynamic approach enhances their ability to engage in advocacy efforts and effectively contribute to the development of agricultural policies and practices

Production of advocacy materials: Calendars on CAADP Biennial Review Report Performance

To amplify the organisational advocacy efforts, ESAFF developed and disseminated advocacy materials calendar that communicated key messages from the 2023 Malabo Biennial Review (BRR) results for SADC member countries, highlighting the need for increased engagement and investment in the region's agricultural policies. These materials provided smallholder farmers with actionable messages and advocacy points based on the EAC and SADC region's performance in the 2023 Malabo Report. It highlighted the call for greater investment in agriculture, noting that no country in SADC and EAC was on track to meet the targets of the CAADP framework. Copies of the materials were distributed to farmers, government officials across the region, as well as to the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) including SADC, EAC and the AUC



CONCLUSION

Moving forward, ESAFF remains committed to advancing the voices and priorities of smallholder farmers across Eastern and Southern Africa. Our efforts in 2024 have laid a strong foundation for the critical engagements ahead in 2025. Key among them will be our participation in the formulation of indicators for the new CAADP framework (CAADP Kampala Declaration 2026 - 2035), ensuring that smallholder farmers' needs are well represented in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) at the national level and actively preparing for COP30 to amplify the role of agroecology in climate action.

ESAFF will be closely involved in the formulation of Regional and National Agri-food Systems Investment Plans (RASIPs and NASIPs), advocating for inclusive and farmer-centered strategies. At the same time, we will remain vigilant in monitoring the evolving geopolitical landscape and its impact on NGOs and civil society engagement.

ESAFF looks forward to deepening our partnerships, strengthening our advocacy efforts and ensuring that smallholder farmers have a strong voice in shaping the agricultural and climate resilience agenda. With collective actions and unwavering commitment, we are confident in achieving transformative change for the farming communities we serve.

PART TWO: SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY 2024 - DECEMBER 2024

1. Introduction

This financial report is for the period commencing from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024. This is the 15th report produced since ESAFF started its operations in 2009. This report is prepared purposely in compliance with the Forum's financial year which runs from 1st January to 31st December each year. The financial operation performance report and financial statements presented have been prepared in accordance to International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and were subjected for audit in accordance with international Standard on Auditing by ESAFF appointed NIVEX Assurance.

2. Overview of Financial Performance for the year 2024

In the financial year 2024 the Forum had a budget of TZS 629,971,640 (EUR 238,171) and of that budget, the Forum received resources totaling TZS 643,256,722 (EUR 254,755) from its funders. Another resource came from the Forum's own sources which were TZS 5,048,107 (EUR 2,472).

The opening cash balance for the financial year 2024 was TZS 67,078,946 (EUR 26,565). This in total made available funds 2024 to be TZS 715,383,775 (EUR 283,320)

The overall expenditure indicates that by the end of ESAFF financial year (31st December 2024) a total amount of TZS 703,329,909(EUR 278,546.5) which forms 116% of the budgeted expenditure was spent to meet the planned activities.

Planned activities for the year included:



2 Recurrent expenditure

Program activities funded by development partners and own funds.

The program expenditure leaves the balance of TZS 39,996,763 (after taking into consideration annual amortization of new asset) about EUR 15,840 as deferred income to the financial year 2024 including Deferred capital grants (TZS 36,479,078.12). This is mainly because some development partners' specific annual reporting period ends some months after ESAFF financial year (December 31st) — See the following table.

Table 1: The deferred Partners funds January - December 2024 in TZS

Particulars	Opening Balance as per 1st January 2024	Amount Received 2024	Expenditures 2024
Grants - SDC	EURO 26,054	EURO 100,102	EURO 126,156
Grants - BfdW	EUR 511.8	EURO 132,447.6	EURO 117,119
Grants - BfdW Campaign		EUR 22,205	EUR 22,205
Total	EURO 26,565.8	EURO 254,754.6	EURO 265,480

Expenditures exclude capital expenditure nor annual amortization.

Note: Exchange rate used is 1EUR = TZS 2,525 as of 31st December 2024

2.1 Income

In the year 2024 ESAFF managed to mobilize funds from 2 donors amounting to TZS 643,256,722. The total income was equivalent to EUR 254,755 which made 100.6% of the annual budgeted amount of EUR 238,171. The funds were received from various sources as shown in the table 2 below.

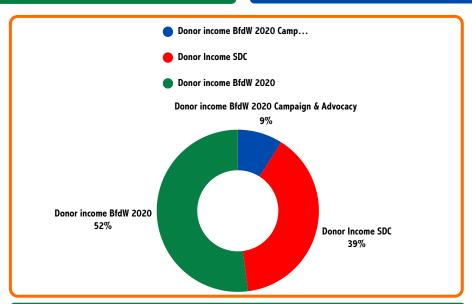
Note: Own funds do not include the non-cash incomes like exchange gain. Income includes opening balance

Table 2: Analysis of Total Income(Including balance at thebeginning of the project) by Source of fund for financial year January - December 2024

Source of Fund/ Partner	Opening balance January 2024	Amount Received January-December 2024 in TZS	Expenditures 2024	Share percentage of income received January- December 2024
Grants - SDC	65,786,601	252,758,409	100,102	39.29 %
Grants - BfdW 2020	1,292,345	334,430,383	132,447.6	51.9 %
Grants - BfdW 2020 Campaign Advocacy		56,067,930	22,205	8.7%
Total	67,078,946	643,256,722	254,754.6	100
Own Fund				
Annual Subscription Fees		5,048,107		
Other Income		1,007,396		
Total		6,055,503		
GRAND TOTAL	67,078,946	649,312,225		

Note: This table includes total fund received from each donor in 2024 Financial year.

Exchange rate used is 1 EUR= TZS 2,525 as of 31st December 2024



The chart 1 above presents the financial contribution from each development partner in %

2.2 Expenditure

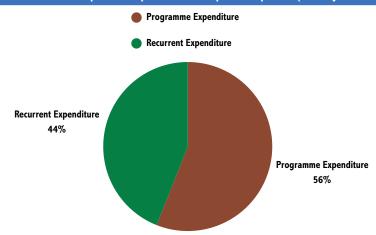
During the period of this report ESAFF have spent total amount of **TZS 703,329,909** (EUR 278,546.5) in implementation of its core activities according to the plan. The main activities financed in year 24 include General investment, recurrent expenditures which comprise personnel and operational cost and finally implementation of program activities. The expenditure pattern for the year 2024 is as indicated in the table 4 below:

Table 4: Summary of Total Organization Expenditures

Description/Category	Expenditure in TZS	Expenditure in EUR)	Percentage (%)
General Investment			
Recurrent Costs	312,101,197	123,604	44%
Program Costs	391,228,712	154,942	55.6%
Total	703,329,909	278,546	100%

Note: Total expenditure excludes non-cash expenses like Depreciation and exchange loss Exchange. The rate used is 1EUR= TZS 25254 as of 31st December 2024

The chart 2 below show the expenditure pattern for the period reported (January to December 2024)



2.3 General Investments

General investment expenditure involves purchase of assets at ESAFF Regional Office based in Morogoro, Tanzania. In this financial year 2024 no assets were purchased.

2.4 Recurrent Expenditure

Under this budget line costs are falling under the category of fixed overhead expenses. These comprise personnel, professional charges and operational cost. The total expenditure was TZS 312,101,197 (EUR 123,604) which makes 44% of the overall total actual expenditure.

2.5 Program Expenditure

Under the budget line of program expenditures, amount of TZS 391,228,712 (EUR 154,942) was spent. This form 55.6 % of total annual actual expenditure.



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA SMALL SCALE FARMERS FORUM (ESAFF)

Unqualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) (the "Organisation"), set out on pages 16 to 30, which comprise of the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Eastern and Southern Africa Small Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and in the manner required by the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2002.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Organization in accordance with the National Board of Accountant and Auditors (NBAA) Code of Ethics, which is consistent with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants, together with other ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Tanzania, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

We report to you, based on our audit, that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the organization, so far as appears from our examination of those books of account; and
- the Organization's statement of financial position (balance sheet) and statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income (profit and loss account) agrees with the books of account.

Certified Public Accountants (Tanzania)

Dar es Salaam

Signed by: CPA Baraka Daudi (ACPA 3302)

28 March 2025

ESAFF Board Members as at 31st December 2024



ESAFF Staff as at 31st December 2024



Mr. Joe Mzinga Regional Coordinator



Ms. Irene Liborious

Programme Manager
Campaign, Advocacy & Lobbying



Ms. Stella Henry
Finance Manager &
MELA



Ms. Martha Mwanamaziku

Finance and
Administration Officer



Mr. Mohammed Bakari Logistics Officer



Mr. Emmanuel Justine
Programme Manager
Fundraising & Communication

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Farmers Speak for Themselves

The Eastern and Southern Africa Small-Scale Farmers Forum (ESAFF) is a network of grassroots organizations of smallholder farmers with a membership of 5.5 million smallholder farmers, operating across 17 nations of Eastern and Southern Africa



Botswana, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, eSwatini, Seychelles, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique Rwanda, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe,

